Save the Children Zimbabwe

CHINHOYI FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS PROJECT

LOW INPUT GARDENING

FUNDED BY IOM

Final Project Evaluation Report

June 2012

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Acknowledgements

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Acronyms

AGRITEX	Agriculture Technical and Extension Services
CT	Cash Transfer
DAPP	Development Aid People to People
DM&E	Design monitoring and Evaluation
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GMI	Group Maturity Index
HH	Household
HHH	Household head
IDP	Internally Displaced Population
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISAL	Internal Savings and Lending
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LIG	Low Input Gardening
LP	Livelihood Protection
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PRP	Protracted Recovery Programme
SC	Save the Children
SCZ	Save the Children Zimbabwe
SPSS	Statistical packages for Social Sciences
ToT	Training of Trainers
USD	United States Dollar
WUC	Water User Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The Intervention

Save the Children (SC) has been implementing a Food Security and Livelihoods project in Zvimba and Makonde districts since November 2010. Funded by ECHO, the intervention had two phases (1 & 2) which aimed to improve the livelihoods and food security situation of the targeted households through Cash Transfers (CT) and Low Input Gardens. The end of phase 2 project in November 2011 initiated another phase funded by IOM which seeks to impact on the Internally Displaced Populations living in two of the previously targeted communities of Makonde District, i.e. Alaska (ward 14) and Shackleton (ward 15). This phase continued with the same beneficiaries as targeted in the previous project funded by ECHO. The main components of this phase are Strengthening of the LIGs, formulation of ISAL groups and Capacity building. A baseline survey was conducted prior to implementation to gather benchmarks. The implementation of the IOM phase ended in June 2012 and it required an internal evaluation. The objectives of the evaluation were to evaluate the 5 criterions of evaluation, i.e. appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability for this last phase of the project.

1.2.0 Findings

1.2.1 Appropriateness

The evaluator made conclusions that the design of the intervention was to some extent appropriate in addressing the problem at hand, i.e. ensuring a sustained food security and/or nutrition status and improved garden-related income-generating opportunities for urban and peri urban IDP households. The projected was rated to have been appropriate in addressing the nutritional needs of the community since production of a variety of vegetables (such as leaf vegetables, beans, tomatoes, carrots etc) is key to household nutrition. However, in-depth analysis combined with the views of the community and key informants showed that although the design of the project was appropriate in a way, Low Input Gardens do not adequately contribute to the food security of urban and peri-urban households.

1.2.2 Efficiency

Timeliness: Although the activities were quite ambitious for only 7 months, the project managed to deliver most of the expected activities within the planned time. Installation of water system was completed and all the trainings that were planned (production, marketing, financial literacy, etc.) were conducted within the set periods through ToT and roll outs. To this effect, the project was efficient in executing the planned activities within the set timeframe.

Efficiency in following the M&E framework: To start with is an assessment of the existence of the M&E framework for the project. The project indeed had a clear M&E framework which effectively directed how M&E activities were conducted. The project was quiet efficient in following

the M&E framework as most of the activities were completed as planned except for a few cases where activities were delayed.

Based on the above discussion, it can be concluded that the project was to a larger extent efficient in implementing the planned activities within the set timeframes. The project was also efficient in following its M&E framework.

1.2.3 Effectiveness

Degree to which objectives were met: Although impact was reached, not all impact targets were met by the project. The project achieved some results to a larger extent, some to a lesser extent and on some few cases, the project did not even reach the intended results (e.g., dietary diversity). A quantification of the degree to which each of the indicator was achieved against the impact target shows that the project did not adequately reach all the expected results. Since achievement of objectives is principally measured by the above indicators, it can be concluded that the evaluated intervention was partially effective in achieving its stated objectives.

Degree of reach of the targeted beneficiaries: From inception, the project plan was to reach 600 households in 2 peri-urban locations, i.e. Alaska and Shackleton. It should be noted that the project managed to reach all the expected beneficiaries within the set time period of implementation. All the 600 households participated in Low input gardening for a set period of 6 months. In terms of ISAL beneficiaries, the project planned to reach 300 individuals but instead surpassed this target by even reaching more beneficiaries (391) who are currently participating in ISALs. In this regard, the project was to a larger extent effective in reaching the expected number of beneficiaries under LIG and ISALs.

Effectiveness in the delivery of water: It is the view of the evaluator to make a conclusion based on the above facts revealed in this evaluation that although the project successfully installed a new water system using modern technology (which is also cheaper to beneficiaries since there are no electricity costs), the system was partially effective in delivering adequate water to the farmers. The water problem that needed to be addressed was still observed as a major challenge during the evaluation. The main challenge with water is the fact that the size of the system is smaller for the available beneficiary caseload. FGDs with the farmers showed that although the farmers greatly commented the new developments, access to water for gardening remained a major challenge thus affecting their production.

Effectiveness in delivery of trainings: The project provided trainings such as food processing, agricultural techniques, marketing and ISALs. A number of beneficiaries (see table 1: Performance tracking table) were reached with these trainings. The evaluation results show that the project was to a larger extent effective in the delivery of these trainings through ToTs and rollouts. However, the delivery of trainings was threatened by 1.) Commitment of trainers and 2.) commitment of participants resulting in erratic attendance during roll outs. This was revealed by respondents who were interviewed during FGDs.

1.2.4 Impact

Impact on household income: The effect of the project on household income was the contribution of LIG (from 2% at baseline to 17% at end line). Total household income changed from an average of $53.25 at baseline to $63.95 at end line. It can be therefore concluded that the project had a positive impact in increasing the income of the targeted households through vegetable sales from Low Input Gardens. The ISAL component additionally contributed by way of providing credit facilities to the members of the groups. ISAL loans assisted those that were into petty trade and vending. It is, however, important to note that over and above the project effects on increasing income, it should be acknowledged that other income sources outside the project (income from employment and casual labour) also contributed to the achievement of this result.

Impact on household food needs: The food deficit by the time of the baseline was worsened by the hungry period, with contributory factors such as increase in food prices as well as decrease of grain availability in neighboring farms and communal areas. At baseline, only 17% of the households could meet their food needs showing that most of the targeted households were in a deficit. The situation did not significantly change throughout the implementation of the project despite the changes that happened in income. By mid term, only 19% could meet their food needs and this increased to 27% at end line. To this regards, although the project aimed that 100% of the targeted households meet their minimum energy needs by end line, this was not adequately achieved as shown by the available statistics and due to the external factors cited above.

Impact on Livelihood Protection threshold: At baseline, the percentage of households who were living above the Livelihoods Protection threshold was 26%. As a result of some positive changes during the implementation of the project, this proportion rose to 29% at midterm and to 51% at end line. Changes in LP are as a result of the increase in income from LIG, ISAL and other sources. The project thus has to a larger extent positively contributed to the achievement of this result, although the target of 75% was not met.

Impact on dietary diversity: Initially the target for this indicator was 90%, but this was reviewed to 95% as a result of the baseline findings which showed that the percentage of households accessing adequate dietary diversity was already 90% (equal to the project target). Midterm results also confirmed the same results where this proportion remained constant. The data collected during evaluation showed that the percentage of households eating at least 4 food groups had dropped to 84%.

It is the view of the evaluator to conclude that the project did not have any impact on dietary diversity as the initial project target was equal to the baseline value, and also considering that the indicator value remained constant form baseline to midterm, and slightly dropped at end line thus failing to meet the new target of 95%. The other dimension is that dietary diversity might not have been a priority to address as the data clearly shows that the targeted households can still do well without any assistance. Triangulations with secondary data of past evaluations in the same project area show that dietary diversity was a priority to the community during the hyper-inflation periods and shortly after (2009-2010), but seems to be a non-priority area in these current years.

Access to inputs: The project has positively contributed to the increase on the proportion (2% at baseline to 33% at end line) of households that purchase inputs on their own from local agro dealers. Although such impact is acknowledged, it is important to note that this result was not adequately achieved as the project only managed 33% of the targeted 90% (project target).

Impact on collaborated production: The project positively contributed to this result by increasing the percentage of clusters practicing collaborated production from zero to 57% at and of project. Since this concept was completely new to the targeted farmers, the results are largely attributed to the project. It should however be noted that although there was such a significant impact, the project did not achieve its target of 90% thus this result can be concluded to be achieved to some extent.

Impact on establishment of contracts between farmers and vegetable buyers: Against the background that the project was centered on production for marketing, one of the key results of the project was to link farmers to buyers and establishes successful contracts. Although there were efforts of establishing formal contracts with buyers, it was unfortunate that no farmers were willing to enter into formal contractual agreements in writing (some buyers highlighted that they had past experiences of bad contractual agreements with some farmers which resulted in most buyers not willing to enter into such agreements again). However, by end of project, 8 verbal contracts had been established with some vegetable buyers where farmers supplied their produce collectively to these buyers. The project therefore had an impact of successfully linking farmers to buyers and establishing some agreements (although verbal), which is a foundation in building future relations.

Increase in knowledge on financial literacy: As part of the trainings that were provided by the project, financial literacy was aimed at improving skills in record keeping and basic financial knowledge. This was implemented through ToTs and rollouts which were conducted by the trained trainers under the guidance of project staff. Against a project target of 50%, the project improved the percentage of farmers showing improved knowledge on financial literacy from 27% (baseline) to 47% (end line). The project therefore had positive impacts in improving knowledge of farmers on this aspect.

Impact of ISAL: The project successfully reached 528 individuals through ISAL trainings. From those that were trained, more than half managed to form ISAL groups. The project target was that 300 households were to form ISAL groups by the end of project. This target was well exceeded, as 391 individuals were part of functional groups by end line. The number of groups that were existing by end line was 67 with an average ISAL fund of $104 per group. Although the project target was to have an average value of loans of $200 per group, the achieved $104 is quite significant considering the fact that they saved for ISAL without any cash injection by the project. In this case, it is the view of the evaluator to conclude that to a larger extent the project impacted on the targeted beneficiaries through provision of the necessary skills, knowledge and technical support for establishment of ISAL groups. The impact of ISAL was of great significance in building an asset base (ISAL savings fund), as well as providing a platform for initiation of Income Generating Activities.

1.2.5 Sustainability of the project

Sustainability of the project will be guaranteed by positive factors like the existence of systems and structures that ensure continuity of the project without external aid (e.g. the existence of security guards who are paid by the farmers, existence of a garden committee, contributions are made towards maintenance of water points), but at the same time is threatened by the negative factors such as shortage of adequate water for gardening. In terms of performance of the overall garden groups, the Group Maturity Index tool showed that all the gardens are still rated to be within the growth stage of development (see attached annex 1). This could potentially pose to threaten sustainability of the project, but over and above the evaluator acknowledges that the positive factors laid above are an indication that the project has the capacity to sail through without any external assistance.

1.3.0 Conclusions and recommendations

This evaluation show that the food security of the targeted households did not significantly change during the implementation of the project (27% achievement of the targeted 100%). In terms of nutrition, dietary diversity was used to measure the project effects on this result. With regards to this, it is a subject of discussion to understand whether it was the project which failed to deliver adequately or whether the designed intervention itself does not fit well with the problem at hand. **It is the view of the evaluator to recommend that future designs should explore whether or not LIGs are best suitable to achieve food security in such settings, otherwise other options or linkages should be considered to effectively address the problem at hand.**

With regards to ISAL, it should be noted that the ISAL groups were formed in March after ToT in March and only contributed for 4 months before the project ended, a point to which (according to the guidelines) the groups must have been under monitoring. In any case, even though the groups were to be formed in January, 7 months was not enough as it falls below the standard minimum duration for monitoring the groups. Therefore the evaluated results only reflects groups that are 4 months old, thus not many changes could be expected at this point of time. Though the groups are expected to continue running on their own, it is difficult to guarantee sustainability due to the fact that the groups are still young. **To this regards, future designs must consider the principles or guidelines that applies (for ISAL methodology) to certain interventions so as to ensure that the project impacts positively on the targeted individuals.**

Degree to which project objectives were met: The findings of this evaluation show that the project was partially successful in achieving its stated objectives. The delivery of activities was done and completed, but the achievement of expected impact targets remained partial in most cases. Much as the evaluator acknowledges the fact that the project did not meet some of its impact targets, there were still significant improvements from the baseline and there are other factors that need to be considered that might have contributed to the partial achievement of results.

The initial factor concerns the target set, where the evaluator is of the opinion that some of the target set might have been too high to achieve within the set timeframe. For instance, achieving food

security and livelihoods protection is a process that happens slowly thus targets for such indicators may not need to be too high as it can be difficult to achieve.

Secondly, the duration of the intervention in relation to some of the set targets could have affected the achievement of target results. For instance, the project duration was 7 months, it was within these 7 months that the farmers were expected to get trainings on agricultural skills, marketing as well as collaborated production and be expected to practically apply the concepts and make sells that are significant enough to improve their livelihoods. At the same time the process of installing water system was expected to happen within the same period, which means that during the period when implementation of the water system was in progress, production was compromised by water shortages but still the achievement of impact will be evaluated for the 7 months. **It is therefore a recommendation that the nature of the interventions, type of activities involved as well as the expected impact should be evaluated to inform the correct duration for an intervention, otherwise projects might fail to be effective not because in-effectiveness but because of limited duration.**

Effectiveness in the delivery of water for gardening: The project was highly commended for installing a sophisticated solar driven water system. The project was effective in achieving the installation of the infrastructure, but it was not adequate to meet the full demands of beneficiaries in terms of water delivery. Even though the system was successfully installed, the farmers are still facing water challenges which mean that the system is partially delivering the required amount of water for gardening. Since the core of the project was centered on gardening, and considering the fact that water is the pillar for any farming activities, it should therefore be noted that the issue of water remains a major drawback to most farmers. The evaluation revealed that the limitations of the new system were on the size of the pump, few solar panels and tanks, absence of boosters to increase pressure. In a nutshell, a bigger system was required to meet the demand of the garden. **In future, it is recommended that enough resources should be allocated to meet the demands of beneficiaries on the ground.**

INTRODUCTION

Save the Children Zimbabwe (SCZ) has been implementing Food Security and Livelihoods Programmes in Mashonaland West Province Zimbabwe. The areas in which the organization has been present include Zvimba rural, urban and peri-urban, Makonde, Hurungwe and Kariba rural and urban.

2.1 Background of the intervention

The intervention in Alaska and Shackleton wards started in October 2009 with ECHO funding and was implemented until end of November 2010. The project was initially designed to respond to the urgent needs of the poorest urban and peri-urban populations of the targeted areas. The Low Input Gardening (LIG) component provided gardening skills and inputs as a basis for the investment of household assets in a longer-term Income-Generating Activities (IGA), towards a year-round food security at household level. In order to ensure the long-term impact of the programme on food security at household level, Save the Children and its implementing partner DAPP embarked on the second stage of programming. The objective of Phase 2 was to formally graduate beneficiaries that are able to maintain their own household food security status, through food diversity and income generated from garden production. While phase 1 emphasized on reaching the survival threshold, part of phase 2 objectives was to ensure that the targeted households graduated from just the survival threshold to the livelihood protection threshold.

After the end of ECHO phase 2 in November 2011, another funding (December 2011 to July 2012) was granted by IOM to continue with the beneficiaries in Shackleton and Alaska who are mostly internally displaced populations (IDPs).

Strengthening Market Research: The core of this phase is the facilitation of community-level ownership of the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, based on the cluster system facilitated during the preceding emergency phases. Given the fact that the bulk of the beneficiaries are internally displaced persons who need to have a strengthened livelihood base in order to be self sufficient, the ECHO funded phases had the emphasis on linking beneficiaries to markets at current production levels. There is therefore need to have farmers maximizing production on individual plots and sustain the production. Farmers will seek to sustain collaborated production in their clusters and as a garden in order to have an uninterrupted supply of produce to the markets. There is need to capacity build and strengthen the already established Marketing committees and Lead farmers on gathering Market information, collaborated production to meet

market demands and participatory market development systems. Training and Formation of ISAL groups will be helpful for farmers as a source of funds for IGA and for funding planned garden activities at cluster level hence boosting of productivity.

Water supply: The critical factor of water access in ensuring year-round LIG production will also be recognised in this action. In phase 2, SCZ undertook consultations with the garden participant on the best way to ensure even water distribution. The outcome of which was community drawn water plans for each garden location. In this regard, SCZ will implement community drawn water plans which will ensure easy access to water supply by all in the garden. Save the Children will therefore make a provision for investments in access to water for each of the established gardens. Distribution will include connection and installation of electric or solar water pumps. Emphasis will also be on the maintenance and repair of the boreholes already in the garden for them to act as back up to the new water system.

The role of the Water User Committees (WUCs) formed and trained in Phase 1 will also be reinforced, to ensure that they take full responsibility for the management and maintenance of water source by the end of the programme. As in the previous set up, DDF will provide the necessary technical expertise to support the role of the WUCs.

2.2 General and specific objectives:

General objective: To contribute to improving the livelihood situation of the most vulnerable population groups by providing short term food security and livelihood support.

Specific objective: To ensure an improved food and nutrition security status of urban and peri-urban IDP households

Beneficiary population: The project is targeting 600 very poor urban and peri-urban IDPs households; these include people living with HIV/AIDs, households with elderly, disabled people and orphans. These households will directly benefit from the project, representing an estimated population of 3,000 people living in the target areas. The beneficiary household numbers are:

- Alaska – 357;
- Shackleton – 243.

The project was implemented for 7 months, i.e. from 1 December 2011 to 30 June 2012. A baseline survey was conducted in December (prior to the implementation of main activities) to gather benchmarking information as a basis for comparison during end of project evaluation. It is against this background that an end of project evaluation was conducted in June to sum up the achievements of this project. The **specific objectives** of the evaluation were to evaluate the project based on the 5 evaluation criterions, i.e. Appropriateness, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability, as well as documenting lessons learnt.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study design

The evaluation was approach was a mix of qualitative (Focus Group Discussions and Key informants) and quantitative methods (structured HH interviews). This was done in Alaska and Shackleton and from each location a sample of beneficiary households was randomly sampled for HH interviews. The design of the assessment was such that household interviews were done to gather data on achievement of impact indicators whilst FGDs were conducted to gather qualitative data to explain the trends and variations. The Group Maturity Index (GMI)[1] tool was also done with representative groups of beneficiaries and their leaders (committees).

3.2 Study Area

The end of project evaluation was conducted in Makonde district of Mashonaland West Province. Two wards of project implementation, that is Shackleton (ward 15) and Alaska (ward 14), were the specific communities where the evaluation was conducted.

3.3 Study population

Household heads of the respective beneficiary households that were sampled in Alaska and Shackleton represent part of the study population. In addition, key stakeholders such as the government departments also formed part of the group of interest for this evaluation. To this effect, the study population includes all Beneficiary HH (general members and committees) in the sampled communities, as well as members of the key government departments (AGRITEX, Department of Irrigation, Chinhoyi Town Council) that were in close collaboration with SCZ staff during the implementation of this project.

3.4 Sampling Strategy

A two stage stratified random sampling was used to come up with households for the quantitative household interview. In this respect, the strata were by default the two respective communities, i.e. Shackleton and Alaska. From these two, a sample of 60 HH (10% of the HH) was selected for the survey. Proportionally, a sample of 36 HH was randomly selected for Alaska and 24 HH were also selected for Shackleton. 2 FGDs (with a sample of 8 – 12 individuals) were conducted per location and 3 Key Informant Interviews were also done with stakeholders. In addition to this, 8 FGD's

[1] GMI is used to assess the level of maturity of targeted groups (gardens) so as to inform what needs to be done for the groups to reach sustainability. The assessment is done based on 5 pillars, i.e. Objectives, Governance, Resources, Systems, Impact

(each with 6-8 people) were conducted in Alaska and 6 in Shackleton for the Group Maturity Index. It should be noted that Alaska has 4 subdivided gardens with independent committees and Shackleton has 3 thus each garden was treated as a group where two FGD's per garden were conducted. The design of the FGD's for the Group Maturity Index was such that per every garden, one FGD was conducted with the general members and one with the garden committee to make a total of 2 FGD's per garden.

3.5 Data Collection Process

Quantitative and qualitative data collection was conducted during a 3 day period by external enumerators under the supervision of SCZ DM&E Officer. One day training was first done to ensure that the data collectors were equipped with the right techniques as well as standardization of concepts. The quantitative tool was developed from previous tools of similar intervention with the input of the project team. FGDs were developed as guided by the terms of reference of the evaluation. As for the GMI tool, this was adopted as it is from the PRP monitoring system.

3.6 Data analysis and report writing

GMI data entry was done using CSPro and exported to SPSS for analysis. As for the HH tool, data entry and analysis was done using SPSS and Microsoft Excel was also used to generate graphs. The DM&E Officer was responsible for analysis and report writing under the technical guidance of the DM&E Manager.

4.0 FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION

4.1.0 APPROPRIATENESS OF THE INTERVENTION

Low Input Gardens are part of urban agriculture which is a significant livelihood option for urban and peri-urban dwellers. Key Informant interviews with stakeholders showed that this type of an intervention is in line with local plans. The Low Input Garden was designed to provide a cash source for the targeted households thereby increasing household purchasing power to buy food. In addition to that, the Low Input Garden intervention was also designed to provide nutritious food (variety of vegetables such as green leafy vegetables, carrots, beans, tomatoes, onion, butternuts etc) to the community. The design of the project linked LIG to ISAL through the understanding that LIG is an income source whilst the ISAL component is a strategy to make savings and investments. The ISAL methodology allows individuals to save their money into a fund which they will then loan to group members at an interest rate. The loans accessed from the ISAL fund were meant to initiate IGA's thus creating a further platform for increasing household income. With these synergies, the project was aimed to have multiple effects on household income thus allowing households to meet their basic food and non food needs.

Against this understanding, the design of the intervention was therefore to some extent appropriate in addressing the problem at hand, i.e. ensuring a sustained food security and/or nutrition status and improved garden-related income-generating opportunities for urban and peri urban IDP households. However some key informant interviews revealed that the design of the project was more appropriate nutrition wise (through production of a variety of vegetables) but not very adequate in terms of addressing food security issues. The community was of the view that the design was appropriate but does not adequately address food security. It is therefore the view of the evaluator to make a conclusion that although the design of the project was appropriate in a way, Low Input Gardens seem not to contribute adequately to the food security of urban and peri-urban households considering that there are other livelihood strategies which are most preferred by urban dwellers and which best suits their environment. Above this, the issue of marketing is quite a constraint to most farmers and inhibits them from getting the expected income. It should be acknowledged that as much as farmers can produce significant amounts of vegetables, the ultimate goal in an urban setting rest on the capacity of farmers to sell their produce, hence increasing their income. To this effect, future designs should consider prioritization of activities that best suit an urban setting or rather to have more of those activities linked to LIG so as to provide an intervention that can adequately address the food security and livelihoods of the IDP populations.

4.2.0 EFFICIENCY

Efficiency of this project will be measured based on 2 major aspects, i.e. timeliness of activities as well as efficiency in following the M&E framework.

4.2.1 Timeliness: The evaluated project had a number of activities planned within 6 months. The major activities which were planned includes installation of water system, trainings, formation of ISAL groups, construction of grading sheds, monitoring and evaluation etc. Although the activities were packed within 7 months, the project managed to deliver most of the expected activities within the planned time. Although some FGDs revealed that were some delays in water provision, the project managed to complete this task mid way thus providing the required water to the gardens. All the trainings that were planned (production, marketing, financial literacy etc) were conducted within the set periods through ToT and roll outs. ISAL trainings were fairly done within the planned time and group members had an opportunity to participate under the technical guidance of project officers. To this effect, the project was efficient in executing the planned activities within the set timeframe.

4.2.2 Efficiency in terms of following the M&E framework: To start with is an assessment of the existence of the M&E framework for the project. The project indeed had a clear M&E framework which effectively directed how M&E activities were carried. The project was quiet efficient in following the M&E framework as most of the activities were completed as planned except for a few cases where activities were delayed. M&E data on outcome indicators was adequately collected from baseline to end line. An output tracking matrix was updated on a monthly basis for tracking progress towards achievement of output indicators. In terms the project beneficiaries, the project managed to complete a database for beneficiaries as guided by the M&E framework. Limitations of the delivery of M&E activities resulted in the absence of technical skills on the ground although efforts were made to have technical support from the central M&E unit.

Based on the above discussion, it can be concluded that the project was to a larger extent efficient in implementing the planned activities within the set timeframes. The project was also efficient in following its M&E framework.

4.3.0 EFFECTIVENESS

The effectiveness of the evaluated intervention is measured based on the following key areas, i.e. the extent to which objectives were met, the degree of reach of the targeted beneficiaries and the delivery of water for gardening.

4.3.1 Degree to which objectives were met: The specific objective of the project was to ensure an improved food and nutrition security of urban and peri-urban IDP households. The achievement of this indicator is measured by a number of outcome and impact indicators of the project. The table below shows the extent to which the targets for the indicators were met.

Table 1: Performance tracking matrix: Impact/outcome level

Key Indicators- Intended results/targets	Baseline Data and source	Midterm data	End line	Project Target	% achievement / extend to which result was achieved
75% of the targeted households attain and remain above the HEA livelihoods protection threshold throughout the lifetime of the project.	26%	29%	51%	75%	68%
100% households meet their minimum energy need.	17%	19%	27%	100%	27%
90% of the beneficiary households maintain a significant level of dietary diversity throughout the lifetime of the project (at least 4 food groups consumed, 24 hour day recall method)	90%	90%	84%	90%	93%
100% of households meet their basic non food basket expenditure.	20%	12%	18%	100%	18%
90% of households demonstrate at least a 30% increase in income from LIG and ISAL by end line (baseline - $53; end line - $64)	$53.25	$58.11	$63.95	($64)	99%
% of households demonstrating an increase in financial knowledge and practice	27%	N/A at mid term	47%	50%	94%
90% of farmers accessing inputs (through own purchases) through local or foreign agro dealers.	2%	30%	32%	90%	36%
90% of clusters showing improved collaborated production.	0	0	57%	90%	63%
Five successful contracts established with buyers of produced vegetables	0	0	8	5	160%
300 very poor and poor households belong to ISAL VSL groups with a total value of loans above US$200	0	391HH	391HH Average loan=$ 104	300 HH	HH =130% Loan =52%
100% of beneficiaries in the process of forming ISAL / VSL groups	0	65%	65%	100%	65%

The above matrix shows the project achievement of impact /outcome indicators. It is observed that although impact was reached, not all impact targets were met as shown in the performance matrix. The project achieved some results to a larger extent, some to a lesser extent and on some few cases, the project did not even reach the intended results (dietary diversity). The last column of the matrix (extend to which result was achieved), is a quantification of the degree to which each of the indicator

was achieved against the impact target, which makes shows that the project did not adequately reach all the expected results. Since achievement of objectives is principally measured by the above indicators, it can be concluded that the evaluated intervention was partially effective in achieving its stated objectives.

4.3.2 Degree of reach of the targeted beneficiaries: From inception, the project plan was to reach 600 households in 2 peri-urban locations, i.e. Alaska and Shackleton. It should be noted that the project managed to reach all the expected beneficiaries within the set time period of implementation. All the 600 households participated in Low input gardening for a set period of 6 months. In terms of ISAL beneficiaries, the project planned to reach 300 individuals but instead surpassed this target by even reaching more beneficiaries (391) who are currently participating in ISALs. To this regards, the project was to a larger extent effective in reaching the expected number of beneficiaries under LIG and ISALs.

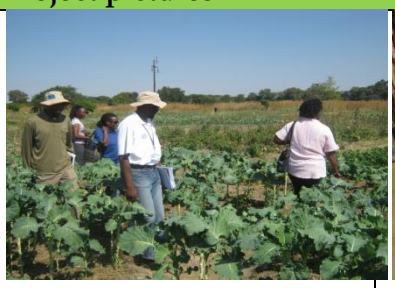
Box 2: Delivery of water for gardening

Alaska
- Number of installed solar system: 2
- Number of tanks (5000 l): 4
- Number of taps : 26

Shackleton
- Number of installed solar system : 1
- Number of tanks (5000l): 4 (1 for community, 3 for garden)
- Number of taps : 28 (1 for community, 27 for the garden)

4.3.3 Effectiveness in the delivery of water for gardening: Provision of water for gardening was a key result area of the project which was a contributory factor (either positive or negative) to the success of the project. Previous evaluation on the same project area revealed water as the main draw-back to the success of Low Input Gardening project. It was against this background that the strategy for thus phase was to install a solar driven water system in a bid to improve the critical water problems in the existing gardens. Two solar systems were therefore installed, one in Alaska and the other one in Shackleton. It should however be noted that even if installation of the new system was successful, provision of water is still not adequate for both Alaska and Shackleton.

Project pictures



For Alaska, 2 solar systems with 4 tanks (with a storage capacity of 5000 liters) were installed. The solar system by design has capacity to fill up the 4 tanks only twice per day thus the yield of water per day is 40 000 liters. By the time of the evaluation, on average a person could have 10-16 by 10m beds on one plot (for those that were fully utilizing their plots). Informal Interviews with farmers in the garden as well as observations showed that 1 bed required 4-6 by 20 liter tins of water for adequate watering (i.e. on

average 100 liters of water per bed). Taking the minimum, this means a farmer with 10 beds needs 1000liters of water per day of watering. With this calculation, and considering the yield of 40 000 liters of water per day, this means that the system currently has capacity to provide adequate water to only 40 farmers per day. With 357 farmers in the gardens, this means that they cannot get gardening water at the same time thus they resorted to watering time tables. The situation of Alaska is somehow complemented by additional boreholes which also provide water for gardening.

. This location has one solar system with 4 tanks (one for the community and the other 3 for the garden). The system is said to have the capacity to yield approximately 18 000liters of water per day, for the 3 tanks in the garden. Assuming one farmer needs about 1000 liters of water per day, this means that the system can only adequately cater for 18 farmers per day. With 243 households in the garden, this produces very huge deficits of water for gardening even if they are to resort to watering timetables.

The evaluator noted that there are a couple of factors that are affecting yield of water per garden. First is the fact that the size of the pump installed is not big enough to yield huge amounts of water per day, adequate enough to cater for the amount of people in the gardens. Secondly, the number of installed solar panels again does not have the capacity to drive bigger pumps and generate more water. Thirdly, because of the size of the pump and considering that there no boosters, and also taking into consideration the distance between a water point and the tanks (especially in the case of Shackleton), it takes long for the system to fill up the tanks. And lastly, considering the size of the garden and the distribution of taps (considering that there are no boosters in between), gravity alone is not adequate to effectively distribute water from the tanks to the whole garden. In this case, some taps are very effective and those that are affected by distance and gravity are weak.

It is therefore the view of the evaluator to make a conclusion based on the above facts that although the project successfully installed a new water system which of modern technology and also which is cheaper to beneficiaries (no electricity costs), the system does not have capacity to deliver adequate water to the farmers. The water problem that needed to be addressed was still observed as a major challenge during the evaluation. FGDs with the farmers showed that although the farmers greatly commented the new developments, access to water for gardening remained a major challenge thus affecting their production.

4.3.4 Effectiveness in delivery of training: The project provided trainings such as food processing, agric techniques, marketing and ISALs. A number of beneficiaries (see table 1: Performance tracking table) were reached with these trainings. The evaluation results show that the project was to a larger extent effective in the delivery of these trainings through ToTs and rollouts. However, the delivery of trainings was threatened by 1.) Commitment of trainers, and 2.) Poor mobilization of people resulting in erratic attendance during roll outs. This was revealed by respondents who were interviewed during FGDs.

4.3.5 Delivery of agro processing materials: The project was effective in delivering agro processing equipment. This equipment was used by the farmers on processing of garden produce as

trained during the food processing trainings. The equipment distributed includes 2 solar driers, 2 panneting machines, 2 digital scales and the building of 2 grading sheds.

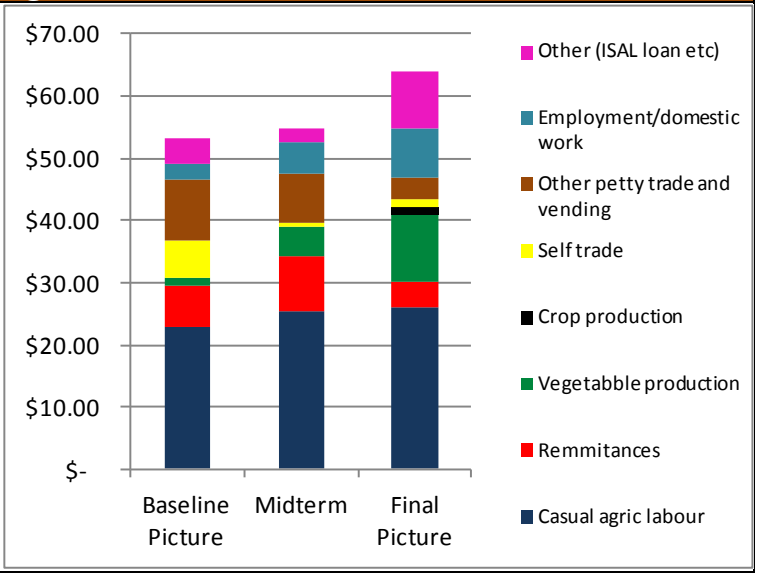
4.4.0 IMPACT OF THE INTERVENTION

This section of the evaluation findings will discuss more on the project achievement of stated goals and objectives. Emphasis will be given to the changes that would have happened as a result of the implementation of the Low Input Gardening project. In this case, a comparison of the baseline picture and end line is key to quantifying or qualifying intervention impact.

4.4.1 Impact on HH income

The Low Input Garden project objectively intended to increase vegetable production for household consumption and selling. The project had a strong marketing component which was designed to enhance garden produce sells for the targeted farmers. A comparison of household income at baseline and end line shows a significant increase from $53.25 to $63.95. Comparing this to the project target ($64) shows that the expected income gap was covered. However, it should be acknowledged that the changes in income are not only as a result of the project, but there are other factors which contributed positively to the increase in household income. For instance, cash income from employment/domestic work significantly increased from baseline $2.58 to $8.10 at end line. Part time employment and domestic work in the medium to low density areas of Chinhoyi town provides income to some of the households targeted by the project. Figure 1 is a graphical display showing changes in income from baseline to the end of the project. Particular attention is given to income from LIG which is the project thrust. It is clear that the baseline contribution of income from LIG was low at baseline but increased with time (from $1.30 to $10.71) as a result of the project. In terms of percentage contribution, LIG contributed 2% of total household income at baseline, 9% by midterm and 17% by and of project which shows that the project positively impacted on changes to income as a result of LIG. In addition to LIG income, the ISAL component also contributed income to the household through an increase in the credit facility

Figure 1: Household Income



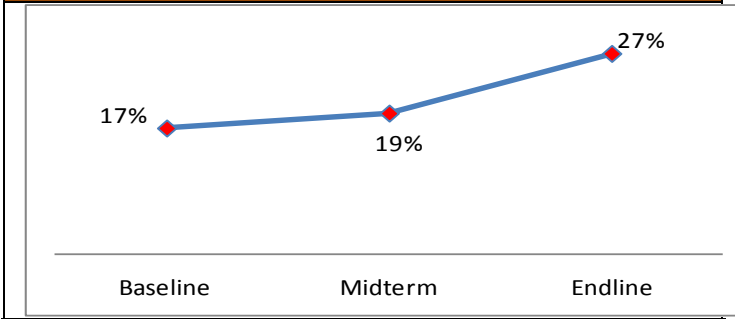
- Contribution of Income from vegetable sells increased with time from baseline to end line.
- ISAL loan also increased at end line thus contributing to household income.
- Casual labour remained almost constant over months but there a gradual increase (though minimum)
- Remittances increased at midterm but decreased at end line
- Petty trade and self trade decreased from baseline to end line.

to individual members (ISAL loans). ISAL loans were meant to stimulate petty trade and vending since most households were able to access capital. However, the results of the evaluation show that there no positive changes in petty trade and vending but instead the data shows a decrease. A detailed discussion on the effect of the ISAL component on project beneficiaries will be provided later in this report.

It can be therefore concluded that the project had a positive impact in increasing the income of the targeted households through vegetables sells from Low Input Gardens. The ISAL component also additionally contributed by way of providing credit facilities to the members of the groups. ISAL loans assisted those that were into petty trade and vending. It however important to note that over and above the project effects on increasing income, it should be acknowledged that other factors outside the project (income from employment and casual labour) also contributed to the achievement of this result.

4.4.2 Impact on survival food needs

Figure 2: % of HH meeting their minimum energy needs



The percentage of HH meeting their minimum energy needs gradually increased form baseline to end line. Analysis at household level show that on average a household is now able to meet 96% of their food needs as compared to 91% at baseline. Food needs in this case are measured in terms of the required 2100 kilo-calories person per day.

The project was designed in such a way that it was to provide income from LIG thereby increasing household purchasing power to buy food. The baseline picture showed that the targeted households had a food deficit of 9% as they could access 91% of their minimum food needs. The deficit by the time of the baseline was worsened by the hungry period, with contributory factors such as increase in food prices as well as decrease of grain availability in neighboring farms and communal areas. At baseline, only 17% of the households could meet their food needs showing that most of the targeted households were in a deficit. The situation did not significantly change throughout the implementation of the project despite the changes that happened in income. By mid term, only 19% could meet their food needs and this increased to 27% at end line. These results show that the food situation of the targeted households remained poor over time. Trend analysis shows that the food situation is normally expected to improve during the post hunger period but because of poor harvests experienced this year, the situation did not improved much.

In this regard, although the project aimed that 100% of the targeted households meet their minimum energy needs by end line, this was not adequately achieved as showed by the available statistics. With regards to achievement of this result, the evaluator also acknowledges that other factors such as decrease in grain prices (see attached prices annex 3) from baseline might have also contributed to increased access of grain thus improving household food security.

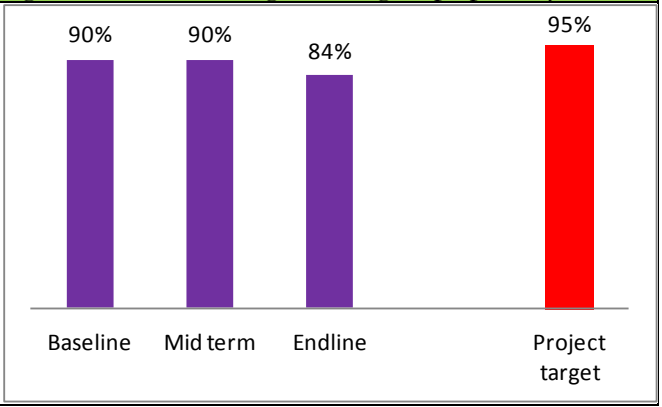
4.4.3 Impact on Livelihood Protection Threshold

One of the major key results of the project was to ensure an increase in the percentage of households attaining and remaining above the Livelihoods Protection threshold. The Livelihood Protection Threshold (LP) represents the total income required to sustain local livelihoods. In addition to the survival food and non-food expenditure, this basket also includes expenditure to 1.) Maintain access to basic education and health services 2.) Sustain livelihoods in the medium to longer term (i.e. expenditure on business, inputs and other related productive activities) and lastly 3.) Achieve a minimum locally acceptable standard of living. A livelihood protection deficit results when households are not able to attain the LP threshold, in this case it means that interventions to protect the existing livelihood base are required. At baseline, the percentage of households who were living above the Livelihoods Protection threshold was 26%. As a result of some positive changes during the implementation of the project, this proportion rose to 29% at midterm and to 51% at end line. Changes in LP are as a result of the increase in income from LIG, ISAL and other sources. The project thus has to a larger extent positively contributed to the achievement of this result although the target of 75% was not meet.

4.4.4 Impact on dietary diversity

The dietary diversity of the targeted households were measured on two dimensions; i.e. 1.) Based on the logic that increasing household income (from LIG and ISAL) would increase household purchasing power on a variety of food items and 2.) The fact that LIG would provide nutritious vegetables thus improving the diet of the targeted households. With this design, the implementation of this project was aimed at increasing the proportion of households with adequate dietary diversity (95% at end line). The measurement was based on the standard that those households eating at least 4 food groups per day were deemed to be accessing an adequate diet. A 24 hour recall method was used to determine this indicator.

Figure 3: % HH eating 4 food groups per day



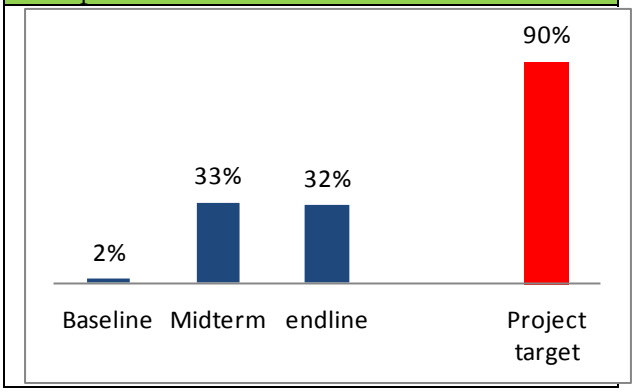
Initially the target for this indicator was 90% but this was reviewed to 95% as a result of the baseline findings which showed that the percentage of households accessing adequate dietary diversity was already 90% (equal to the project target). Midterm results also confirmed the same results where this proportion remained constant. The data collected during evaluation showed that the percentage of households eating at least 4 food groups had dropped to 84% making it even difficult to interpret the trends as the reasons for the drop are not clear. Figure 3 shows the trend analysis from baseline to end line.

To this regards, it is the view of the evaluator to conclude that the project did not have any impact on dietary diversity as the initial project target was equal to the baseline value, and also considering that the indicator value remained constant form baseline to midterm, and slightly dropped at end

line thus failing to meet the new target of 95%. The other dimension is that dietary diversity might not have been a priority to address as the data clearly shows that the targeted households can still do well without any assistance. Triangulation with secondary data of past evaluations in the same project area shows that dietary diversity was a priority during the hyper-inflation periods and shortly after (2009-2010), but seems to be a none-priority area in these current years.

4.4.5 Access to inputs

Figure 4: % of HH accessing inputs through own purchases



Phase 1 of the LIG intervention provided an input package to the farmers as start up kits to stimulate production. The inputs were provided using a voucher system which allowed farmers to be linked to agro-dealers. This was done to prepare them for a situation where they can link with local agro-dealers and buy inputs on their own. The design of phase 2 was such that farmers were not to receive inputs there encouraging them to purchase on their own. Again this was done as an exit strategy or rather to instill a culture of self sustenance. The project had a series of trainings on agric skills which incorporated issues to encourage farmers to purchase inputs on their own. It was therefore one of the project key result area to increase the percentage of farmers who access inputs through own purchases. The baseline survey conducted in December showed that only 2% of the farmers were primarily relying on inputs purchased form agro-dealers. There was an overwhelming increase from baseline to midterm where 33% of the farmers reported that they had primarily accessed their inputs through own purchases. Although there was a slight drop at end line (32%) the proportion can be said to have remained constant from midterm to end line. The inserted chart (Figure 4) shows these results.

The project thus has positively contributed to the increase on the proportion of households that purchase inputs on their own form local agro dealers. Although such impact is acknowledged, it is important to note that this result was not adequately achieved as the project only managed 33% of the targeted 90% (project target).

4.4.6 Impact on collaborated production

The concept of collaborated production is a marketing technique with an objective of allowing a group of farmers to collectively grow the same type of crop at the same time so as to market large quantities to selected buyers. In this case, farmers would have the capacity of supplying their produce to those buyers who would prefer large quantities or a constant supply of a certain type of produce. In this case, all clusters within each garden were capacitated on the concept through marketing and production trainings which were conducted during the implementation of the project. The measurement of this result was based on the percentage of clusters that were doing collaborated production. The project positively contributed to this result by increasing the percentage of clusters

practicing collaborated production from zero to 57% at and of project. Since this concept was completely new to the targeted farmers, the results are largely attributed to the project. It should however be noted that although there was such an impact, the project did not achieve its target of 90% thus this result can be concluded to be achieved to some extent.

4.4.7 Impact on establishment of contracts between farmers and vegetable buyers

Against the background that the project was centered on production for marketing, one of the key results of the project was to link farmers to buyers and establishes successful contracts. Although there were efforts of establishing formal contracts with buyers, it was unfortunate that no farmers were willing to enter into formal contractual agreements in writing. However, by end of project 8 verbal contracts had been established with some vegetable buyers where farmers supplied their produce collectively to these buyers. The project therefore had an impact of successfully linking farmers to buyers and establishing some agreements (although verbal) which is a foundation in building future relations.

4.4.8 Increase in knowledge on financial literacy

As part of the trainings that were provided by the project, financial literacy was aimed at improving skills in record keeping and basic financial knowledge. This was implemented through ToTs and rollouts which were conducted by the trained trainers under the guidance of project staff. Against a project target of 50%, the project improved the percentage of farmers showing improved knowledge on financial literacy from 27% (baseline) to 47% (end line). The project therefore had positive impacts in improving knowledge of farmers on this aspect.

4.4.9 Impact of the ISAL component

Box 1: ISAL performance summary

- 391 HH belonged to ISAL groups by end line
- A total of 67 groups were active by end line
- Total portfolio for all groups was $6968 by end line
- Average portfolio per group was $104 by end line
- Average share per member was $17.82 by end line

The design of the evaluated Livelihoods project was an integration of the Low Input Gardening and ISAL. This was based on the logic that LIG was a cash source whilst ISAL component would provide ways of saving and investing money. Linking ISAL to LIG was part of an exit strategy of the project which was aimed at ensuring that the targeted households are equipped with tools that would allow them to improve their incomes. The project successfully reached 528 individuals through ISAL trainings. From those that were trained, more than half managed to form ISAL groups. The project target was that 300 households were to form ISAL groups by the end of project. This target was smashed as 391 individuals were part of functional groups by end line. The number of groups that were existing by end line was 67 with an average ISAL fund of $104 per group. Although the project target was to have an average value of loans of $200 per group, the achieved $104 is quite significant considering the fact they saved for ISAL without any cash injection by the project. In most cases, ISAL interventions are stimulated by a cash injection into the system by the project so as to initiate or rather boost savings. But with the case of the evaluated project, no cash injection was provided. Although the targeted

beneficiaries expected a cash injection to boost ISALs, Key Informant Interviews with local authorities showed that the design of implementing ISALs was a more sustainable way of promoting self sustenance of the community.

In this case, it is the view of the evaluator to conclude that to a larger extent the project impacted on the targeted beneficiaries through provision of the necessary skills, knowledge and technical support for establishment of ISAL groups. The impact of ISAL was of great significance in building an asset base (ISAL savings fund) as well as providing a platform for initiation of Income Generating Activities.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The evaluator did an assessment of the current structures and systems existing in the gardens to measure the sustainability of the project the following key aspects were noted:

Positive

- For all the gardens, there is a committee that oversees all the management issues of the garden.
- The gardens employed security guards who provide security to the infrastructure in the garden (especially the solar panel system).
- A system is in place where all garden members contribute $1 per month towards maintenance of water points and payment of security guards.
- The solar driven water system is cost effective as there are no electricity bills to be met by farmers.
- The culture of maintaining water points prevails.
- A system for watering timetables is in place and is effectively managed by the committee.
- Review meetings chaired by the committee are conducted periodically.
- Community participation is moderate
- Collaborated production and marketing enabled the farmers to have skills of creating their own links with buyers without external assistance.

Potential Risks

- Participation of stakeholders directly with beneficiaries could decrease without incentives, although a high level of ongoing commitment has been promised.
- There is need for increased water supply for all beneficiaries to continue gardening
- The ISAL groups were still in development stage when the project ended so it's not clear if they'll be able to maintain momentum.

The above factors show that the sustainability of the project will be guaranteed by the number of positive factors, even if there are some possible risks as also noted.. In terms of performance of the overall garden groups, the Group Maturity Index tool showed that all the gardens are still rated to be within the growth stage of development (see attached annex 1 - GMI). This result again poses to threaten sustainability of the project but over and above the evaluator acknowledges that the

positive factors laid above are an indication that the project has the capacity to sail through without any external assistance.

6.0 UNINTENDED RESULTS

The implementation of the project objectively desired to achieve a set of intended results through LIG and ISAL. But over and above what was expected of the project, there were some unintended results. The evaluator of this intervention would like to present the set of unintended results that resulted as a result of the implementation of the project, which are as follows:

- Provision of water for gardening is now providing water for the community for domestic use. The community now benefits from tap water from the garden.
- The project provided employment to 6 security guards who were employed to provide security to the water system as well as the rest of the garden infrastructure. The guards earn on average $70-$80 per month.
- The establishment of the community gardens in Shackleton and Alaska has improved the availability of vegetables to the community. The majority of community members who used to rely on other markets can now easily access vegetables from the community gardens.
- Skills transfer (to the individuals who worked with the technical team during all the engineering work) on installation of the solar pump system and management, as well as connection of irrigation pipes, is one of the aspects which was greatly commended by the beneficiaries.
- The idea of working as clusters in groups as well as working in ISAL groups was reported to have improved community cohesion and strengthened community relationships and networks.

7.0 KEY SUCCESSES OF THE PROJECT

The targeted beneficiaries in Alaska and Shackleton expressed their gratitude to Save the Children and IOM for bringing an advanced solar driven water system. The beneficiaries showed that despite the challenges that they are currently facing (water shortages), they were happy that the project delivered such a system to their community. The system was highly commended for its user friendliness (less labour intensive) as compared to the boreholes which require manpower. In addition to that, the beneficiaries were impressed by the fact that the solar driven system does not require payment of bills as with the case of electrical pumps connected to the main electric lines.

8.0 A DISCUSSION OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Achievement of broad objectives (impact on food security and nutrition): The implementation of the LIG project linked to ISAL was designed to address the food security, livelihoods and nutrition of the IDP populations living in Alaska and Shackleton. Although the design of the project was in line with community plans and stated objectives -related to the problem at hand, the project partially addressed the needs of this community in terms of food security. To start with is the fact that the targeted community showed a food and an expenditure deficit at baseline, a problem that was expected to be adequately addressed by the project by end line. The project was therefore implemented to increase vegetable production and sells thus improving household income and purchasing power. The effect of increase in income was expected to impact on the food security of targeted households through improving the proportion accessing adequate food needs.

This evaluation shows that the food security of the targeted households did not significantly change during the implementation of the project (27% achievement of the targeted 100%). With regards to this, it is a subject of discussion to understand whether it was the project which failed to deliver adequately or whether the designed intervention itself does not fit well with the problem at hand. **It is the view of the evaluator to recommend that future designs should explore whether or not LIGs are best suitable to achieve food security in such settings, otherwise other options or linkages should be considered to effectively address the problem at hand.**

With regards to dietary diversity, baseline data showed that the community was already at an acceptable level before project implementation. This means that the question of improved dietary diversity might not have been a priority to be addressed by the project. Midterm to end line data showed that access to the recommended dietary diversity remained constant over time, even though there was a slight drop at end line. These trends can be interpreted in the sense that the beneficiaries already have a level of access almost the same as the project expectation which means that this might not be a priority area to address.

Impact of ISAL: Although there are tangible results of trained individuals and formed groups who are saving on a monthly basis (average portfolio of $104 per group), the ISAL methodology does not fit well for short projects as in this case (7 months). It should be noted that the methodology guidelines according CARE international (training agency on ISAL) stipulates that the formed groups should be monitored for at least 12 to 18 months for results to be realized at household level. In this case, it was difficult for the evaluator to make conclusions about these groups since they are still in development. It should be noted that the ISAL groups were formed in March and only contributed for 4 months before the project ended, a point to which (according to the guidelines) the groups must have been under monitoring. Therefore the evaluated results only reflects groups that are 4 months old, thus no much changes should be expected at this point of time. Though the groups are expected to continue running on their own, sustainability is not guaranteed due to the fact that the groups are still young. **To this regards, future designs must consider the principles or guidelines (for ISAL methodology) that applies to certain interventions so as to ensure that the project impacts positively on the targeted individuals.**

Degree to which project objectives were met: The findings of this evaluation show that the project was partial in achieving its stated objectives. The delivery of activities was done and completed but the achievement of expected impact targets remained partial in most cases. Much as the evaluator acknowledges the fact that the project did not meet some of its impact targets, there are other factors that need to be considered that might have contributed to the partial achievement of results.

The initial factor concerns the target set, where the evaluator is of the opinion that some of the target set might have been too high to achieve within the set timeframe. For instance, achieving food security and Livelihoods Protection is a process that happens slowly thus targets for such indicators may not need to be too high as it can be difficult to achieve.

Secondly, the duration of the intervention in relation to some of the set targets could have affected the achievement of target results. For instance, the project duration was 7 months, it was within these 7 months that the farmers were expected to get trainings on agric skills, marketing as well as collaborated production and be expected to practically apply the concepts and make sells that are significant enough to improve their livelihoods. At the same time the process of installing water system was expected to happen within the same period, which means that during the period when implementation of the water system was in progress, production was compromised by water shortages but still the achievement of impact will be evaluated for the 7 months. **It is therefore a recommendation that the nature of the interventions, type of activities involved as well as the expected impact should be evaluated to inform the correct duration for an intervention, otherwise projects might fail to be effective not because in-effectiveness but because of limited duration.**

Effectiveness in the delivery of water for gardening: The project was highly commented for installing a sophisticated solar driven water system. The project was effective in achieving the installation of the infrastructure but however failed to meet the expectations of beneficiaries in terms of water delivery. Even though the system was successfully installed, the farmers are still facing water challenges which mean that the system is partially delivering the required amount of water for gardening. Since the core of the project was centered on gardening, and considering the fact that water is the pillar for any farming activities, it should be therefore be noted that the issue of water remains a major draw-back to most farmers. The evaluation revealed that the limitations of the new system were on the size of the pump, few solar panels and tanks, absence of boosters to increase pressure. In a nutshell, a bigger system was required to meet the demand of the garden. **In future, it is recommended that enough resources should be allocated to meet the demands of beneficiaries on the ground.**

Annex 1: Group Maturity Index (GMI)

Annex 1: Growth stages of sub garden groups					
	Objectives	Resources	Impact	Systems	Final GMI Score
Infancy	0	0	14%	0	0
Growth	57%	57%	86%	100%	100%
Maturity	43%	43%	0	0	0
Sustainability	0	0	0	0	0

Annex 3: Price data

ANNEX 2 : PRICE DATA				
Commodity	Measure	Average		
		Baseline	Midterm	End line
Maize grain	Per bucket	$5.00	$5.00	$3.00
Other cereal	Per bucket	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rice	Per 2kg	$2.00	$2.17	$2.00
Beans	Per 500g	$1.17	$0.88	$1.00
Cooking oil	Per 2L	$4.17	$4.13	$4.08
Sugar	Per 2kg	$2.42	$2.50	$2.50
Salt	Per 1kg	$0.50	$0.50	$0.50
Flour	Per 2kg	$2.00	$2.00	$2.00
Kapenta	Per 100g	$0.80	$0.92	$0.92
Powder Milk	Per 1kg	$5.25	$5.25	$5.25
Fresh milk	Per 500ml	$0.92	$0.88	$1.00
Margarine	Per 500g	$1.06	$1.04	$1.00
Peanut butter	Per 375ml	$1.07	$1.13	$1.37
Eggs	Per 1/2 dozen	$0.96	$1.08	$1.00
Vegetables	Per small bundle	$0.50	$0.50	$0.50
Tomatoes	Per 1kg	$1.00	$1.00	$1.00

Soap	Per bar	$1.90	$1.92	$1.92
Bath soap	Per cake	$1.00	$1.00	$1.00
Vaseline	Per 100ml bottle	$0.92	$1.08	$1.00
Candles	Per pack of six	$2.60	$2.88	$2.90
Paraffin	Per 750ml bottle	$1.33	$0.93	$1.50
Toothpaste	Per 100ml tube	$1.08	$0.95	$1.17
Mealie meal	Per 10 kg	$4.80	$5.00	$4.83